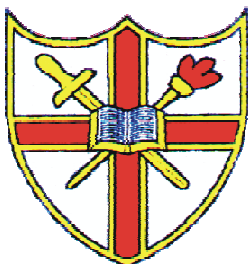


Sounding the Trumpet

Summer 2013



F.E.M.



This is a homiletical magazine designed to encourage and assist all who are engaged in the preaching of the pure Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

One of the aims of FEM (as it is affectionately known by its members) is to give preachers instruction in preparation, format and delivery of the message of Saving Grace both inside and outside of church buildings. We trust that this magazine will be both a blessing and assistance to all who proclaim the Good News of sins forgiven and the hope of eternal life through saving faith in the Son of God.

Sounding the Trumpet is published four times a year. If you would like to subscribe please contact the address below or go to www.femonline.co.uk for a form.

Articles included in this magazine are chosen for their homiletical content and not for a person's theological persuasion. As the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries is a conservative evangelical body, no articles by those of a liberal position will knowingly be included in this journal.

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None Other

by Gary J. Hall

This message was given on 11 May 2013 at FEM's Celebration Rally.

"This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:11-12).

Introduction

The world abounds with notions about the nature, purpose and existence of humanity, and it is almost true to say that there are as many philosophies as there are people. The fact is that the name of Jesus Christ is rarely promoted as the remedy for man's ills and problems. Even if He is mentioned, it is usually only to ridicule Christianity as a redundant religion. The truths of the Bible are hardly ever explored when people discuss eternal life, yet the Lord is the **"Judge of the quick and the dead"** (2 Timothy 4:1) and His way is the exclusive path to Heaven.

This wilful ignorance is not new, instead it is as ancient as the earth itself. Ever since Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden, mankind has endeavoured to find alternative pathways to God or eternal truth. In doing so, and since they are seeking for answers outside of God's will, they are lost in spiritual blindness and sin. Adam and Eve knew the right way, but chose to go in another direction. Cain knew it too, yet being

bothered by its exclusivity, he tried to silence the truth by killing his brother, the preacher of righteousness in his day. Throughout their wilderness wanderings the Israelites continued to rebel against God, and things did not improve much after they inherited the Promised Land. In Jesus' day the Hebrews, Greeks and Romans had their own versions of what they believed was the road to God. The vast array of religions and philosophies today is evidence that the rebellion against the true way still exists. Their answers will only lead them to destruction and damnation. Jesus said, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"** (John 14:6). Rather than making the path mysterious, God plainly points man in the right direction.

The Way

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). How can man find the way if he does not even know the condition of his own heart? **"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death"** (Proverbs 16:25). The fact is, the majority of mankind are not really into holiness and godliness. It needed God to step into our lives to personally redirect us towards Heaven. He did not use an earthly priest, prophet or king to call us to redemption, instead He sent

someone who was perfectly all three, He sent His Son to show us the way. **"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons"** (Galatians 4:4-5).

The "way" was then clearly re-established and signposted on the cross. The law demanded the correct sacrifice for sin, something fallen man was unable to provide. The sacrifice both signified man's inability and God's ability. It was not meant to be a means to an end, but instead pointed to the Redeemer who would come to save all who accepted Him by faith alone. As the lamb took the place of the sinner, so Christ took upon Himself the sin of all humanity. There was no other way to eternally save man from sin. The "way" is not a list of religious requirements which console the wicked heart of man, instead it is a glorious encounter with the thrice holy God. He made the "way" possible and simply says, **"This is the way, walk ye in it"** (Isaiah 30:21).

*Oh, the love so full and free
That the Lord bestowed on me,
When He bade me
come to my Heavenly home
By the way of redeeming love.*

The Truth

The raw value of the elements and chemicals which make up our body is estimated to be no more than £3.50. What worthwhile thing can you buy today for such a sum? That pitiful amount does not even cover the price of a decent lunch. Therefore it is not material the body or possessions that are of the

highest value in life. Think about it, that priceless masterpiece is worth more than the cost of the canvas and paint. As we examine our place before God, we have to recognise His greatness and our own worthlessness. **"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge"** (Proverbs 1:7). It is at this point, if we are willing to submit to His sovereignty, that we begin to understand that we are not what we think ourselves to be. Only when we appreciate this truth will we grasp the wonder of God's mercy and love.

This is the beginning of the way of godliness, humility and faith. The apostle John understood this concept very well. **"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God"** (1 John 3:1). Bildad the Shu'ite was correct when he asked, **"How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman? Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight. How much less man, that is a worm? and the son of man, which is a worm?"** (Job 25:4-6). It does not matter what philosophers and religionists say, mankind does not have a leg to stand on before God. No matter how persistently he tries, he will not find another truth that leads to eternal life. The people at the Tower of Babel thought that they had found the way to experience the highest revelation, but God stepped down from Heaven and dashed their dreams to pieces. Only the truth which is in Christ Jesus can set the sinner free. **"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free ... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"** (John 8:32, 36).

The "way" is not a list of religious requirements which console the wicked heart of man, instead it is a glorious encounter with the thrice holy God.

*Jesus, the Truth and Power divine,
Send forth these messengers of Thine;
Their hands confirm,
their hearts inspire,
And touch their lips with hallowed fire.*

The Life

The reality is that man is in a desperate need of a Saviour, something, that with all his ingenuity, he cannot provide for himself. This is where Jesus makes all the difference. Only His own lifeblood can redeem us and give us eternal life. A sinner who dies takes his sin beyond the grave, but Jesus forever buried the sins of His own people. This abundant life which we have inherited is gained not through our own effort but by His grace. **"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost"** (Titus 3:5). No wonder therefore Peter could boldly say to the multitudes, each having their own hopes and dreams, **"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"** (Acts 4:12). It is in dying to the flesh and self that we can truly experience the life-changing power of

salvation. **"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me"** (Galatians 2:20). Christ Himself **"is our life"** (Colossians 3:4).

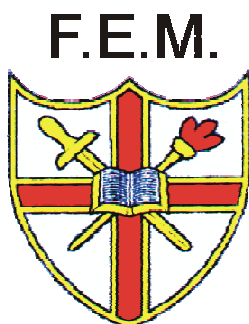
*Look upon Jesus, sinless is He;
Father, impute His life unto me.
My life of scarlet, my sin and woe,
Cover with His life, whiter than snow.*

Conclusion

Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life", therefore we ought to daily cling to Him alone. It is of Him we tell the world lost in sin. We point sinners to none other but He. Not to a church, a preacher or some organisation, but to Christ. We teach them that He is not a ticket to Heaven, but the Way that leads there, the very Truth that sets them free, and the Life that thoroughly transforms their daily lives. We have nothing else to talk about, for there is "none other" way to be saved.

*There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of Heaven and let us in.*

Gary J. Hall is pastor of Living Word Bible Church, Liverpool, United Kingdom, member of the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries Executive Council, Editor of Sounding the Trumpet and Director of Studies for the Evangelistic Academy. predikuesi@gmail.com



The Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries is a conservative, evangelical body that adheres strictly to the fundamentals of the Christian faith. Founded in 1896 in Cross Street Baptist Church, London, where eleven men met for prayer and formed the Evangelical Preachers Association. A new constitution was drawn up in 1980 under the present name. FEM proclaims the historical and Biblical Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and endeavours to be obedient to the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20. If you are an evangelist, pastor, missionary or other Christian worker, we would be honoured to welcome you into our membership. Membership to FEM is open to all truly born again believers .

Sounding the Trumpet Summer 2013

The Noahic Covenant

Genesis 9:13-17



by Richard Hardy

“I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. And God said to Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between Me and all flesh that is upon the earth.”

God is a covenant keeping God. We learn this from the holy scriptures. The word covenant means a solemn pledge, a promise from God. The Noahic covenant is an unconditional covenant. God promises that however bad mankind would become, He would never destroy the earth by flood again. This covenant is still in force today. It is made by God and addressed to all flesh.

The covenant was sealed with the sign of a rainbow. This for all generations would be the sign, the token, of the Noahic covenant. Considering this promise, we realise that God would preserve the world, and the generations after Noah. This for one distinct reason, that is, so the Redeemer could and would come.

We should however realise that this world is not destined to worldwide flood, but fire!

This is outlined in scripture in 2 Peter 3:10, **“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements**

shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

We also know, thankfully, that God will create all things new at the end of time. (Revelation 20:9 and 21:1.)

So what can we learn from this Noahic covenant? We see every time a rainbow appears, God's promise. In reality it is a sign of love. God would preserve the earth and its inhabitants, so that the Redeemer would be able to come.

Also we should remember that before the earth is burned up in fervent heat, the Redeemer, Jesus, will come again.

So next time you see the rainbow, remember it is a sign of grace and love.

But also we should be reflective. We remember that the wickedness on earth was so bad, that apart from Noah's family, and the saving of some animals, all things were destroyed. The Bible teaches us that when Noah left the ark, his burnt offerings on the altar, were a sweet savour to the Lord, (Genesis 8:20-21.)

In a rainbow we see the beauty of God's creative work. A beautiful arch of red,

orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Next time you see one, remember God's promise to Noah, and to us, and aren't we thankful for it!

Richard Hardy is pastor of Marshside Christian Fellowship, Southport. He is a member of the Executive Council of FEM and serves as its Chairman. www.marshsidechristianfellowship.co.uk



PRAISE and PRAYER Bulletin **from Richard Cook** **Chaplain to Manchester and the North West**

Blackpool Area

Busy times cause great stresses on the rail network, and the adverse weather has indeed caused great stresses on Northern staff in the Blackpool area. Please do pray for them as they try to continue as near a normal service as possible.

Manchester Area

Trials and tribulations will be the watchword for all the staff in the Manchester Victoria area as the much needed renovations to the station takes place and very soon it will look more of a building site and less of a station for a while. Please uphold the staff in those conditions. At Manchester Piccadilly this year will be the first of many services of Remembrance, and we look forward to it.

To be the Chaplain is such a joy and privilege, and with that in mind, as you may remember last year, I did an outdoor swim for RM funds. Well this year I am doing 3 'Great' swims, On June 15th at 13.00 I am doing the Great North Swim to raise funds for a memorial book at Preston station to remember the dead of World War I. On July 20, at Salford Quays, I am doing the Great Manchester Swim, again at 13.00 for S.A.N.D.S and for 'When you wish upon a star', two super charities dear to staff at Warrington, Manchester Piccadilly and Stockport. On August 31 I am swimming in the Great London Swim at 13.00 for Railway Mission funds.

***If you can please do come and give me a cheer, wave or throw a lifebelt!
Seriously, do please pray for me in these activities,
and it would be good to see a friendly face.***

Richard Cook is a member of FEM and serves as Railway Chaplain for Manchester and the Northwest of the United Kingdom. Richard.Cook@railwaychaplain.net



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Jam Thumbs

These are a great favourite with the children (and adults) at Living Word Bible Church. Jam Thumbs, otherwise known as Bright Eyes or Bird Nest Cookies, are extremely easy to make.

Ingredients

2/3 cup butter
1/3 cup white sugar
2 egg yolks
1 teaspoon vanilla extract (optional)
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups plain flour
1/3 cup strawberry / raspberry jam

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees / gas mark 4). Lightly grease oven tray.

In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg yolks, vanilla, and salt. Gradually mix in flour.

Shape dough into 3/4 inch balls. Place 1 inch apart on prepared oven tray. Press down centre of each with thumb. You can use the egg white to glaze the biscuits if so desired. Add enough jam to fill the hole.

Bake for 15 to 17 minutes or until golden brown.

"We have enjoyed a wonderful weekend of Bible ministry and joyful friendship with many people from various parts of the country and Republic of Ireland. Holiness of life brings happiness and joy which enlarge our lives. All are the gift of a loving living Saviour. It is better than winning the lottery, football, blaspheming TV, holidays in the sun. Formula 1 racing. Certainly the Christian life is heavenly here and now and it can only get better."

Frank Rowley (posted on Facebook).

2013 Celebration Rally

FEM met for its Annual General Meeting and Celebration Rally on 11 May. The day was blessed of the Lord and we had a wonderful time of fellowship. Here are just a few photographs of the event.



Michael Hewison being presented with his Ministers' Licence by Frank Rowley and Terry Martin.



Tony Dutton being presented with his Ministers' Licence and Diploma in Theology by Frank Rowley and Terry Martin.



The music ministry was provided by Daniel, Lucy and Adrian.

Green Pastures and Quiet Waters



by Frank Rowley

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever” (Psalm 23).

It has been said this is the best loved Psalm of the one hundred and fifty.

It is the pearl of Psalms with a soft and pure radiance of truths, it delights the eye and warms the heart; its sweetness and spirituality are unsurpassed.

To enter into the spirit of the Psalm in our personal devotional times is to experience the days of heaven on earth whatever personal situation prevails in our life.

The LORD is my shepherd. No ifs and buts no “I hope so”. If He is the shepherd to no one else, He is a shepherd to me. Confidence for each Christian believer is strengthened because of the continuing pastoral care of the ‘Great Shepherd of the Sheep’.

I may not possess all I wish for, but **“I shall not want.”** Whatever our age **“The Lord is my shepherd.”**

In devotional times our hearts dwell in

the palace of content.

“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures” of Scriptural truth. These pastures that are always fresh and rich can never be exhausted. We have the Gospel of Truth - rich and rewarding on every level. We can add serenity of spirit and satisfaction of heart.

“He leadeth me beside the still waters.” My painting shows my love of stretches of water. Still waters speak quietly of the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit in the way He leads and guides. He blows no trumpet nor beats the powerful drum for He loves peace in the various ways He operates in our life. He is the dove not the eagle; the dew not the hurricane. We are led never driven.

“He restoreth my soul.” For those at low spiritual ebb because of personal circumstances you can know restoration to full spiritual life and vitality. Your devotional time can and will be a time

when He restores your soul.

“He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name’s sake.”

There are many paths and they are all paths of trust and obedience. Our feet follow the leading of the LORD. He knows the best path and leads us in His love. Aware with each step of our heavenly Shepherd’s care and control.

“Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

Over the years I have met many, many families experiencing the sorrow of bereavement and loss. The shadow of the valley can be the place where the light of the Gospel shines with comfort and challenge in the hearts and minds of those attending the funeral.

Certainly Psalm 23:1-6 is a wonderful truth on such occasions. Let us be certain that there is light beyond the shadow. Jesus is the Light of the World. In Him alone is light and life.

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.” The Lord had enemies and we as His followers have too. However the table is already for you, dear believer, for the Lord has not prepared a table for your enemies. Keep calm and carry on in service and ministry for the LORD. We have peace at the table and we need not hurry from it.

“Thou anointest my head with oil”. May we live in the daily enjoyment of this blessing, receiving a fresh anointing

at our devotional times with our Great High Priest - for every true, obedient Christian is a priest and new grace is given daily. It can be a twenty four-seven experience for there is no shortage of heavenly blessing for us. Our cup can be full and overflowing. Our devotional commitment will make us aware of our standing in this important matter. We can be full, half full or overflowing.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.”

This is an indisputable fact and it is a great statement of encouragement too. The tandem follows us wherever we are and whatever we do. “I will never leave you; I will never forsake you.” said our Lord Jesus Christ, He never has and He never

will. Every day of our lives are covered with His powerful and peaceful presence. The believer walks on and walks on with a constant friend and companion. So goodness supplies our needs, and mercy blots out our sins.

“And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.” What a glorious certainty and prospect this is for every believing, obedient Christian. “Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Our feet follow the leading of the LORD. He knows the best path and leads us in His love.

Frank Rowley is an Executive Council member of the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries. He serves as one of our administrators. frankrowley@hotmail.co.uk



“The hardest part of the journey is neither the start nor the finish but the middle mile. There is enthusiasm of a new undertaking that buoys you at the beginning and there is the thrill of reaching the goal that carries you down the home stretch; but the middle mile, when you are a long way from the start and home is still distant - that tests the mettle of the traveller” Vance Havner.

Pleased to Meet You

My name Colin Ryan, the new Probationary Executive Council Member, a position that I am proud to hold. My job is to support the main council members at the Council meetings and to help to spread the message about FEM in the West Country. I have worked my way, with the Lord's help, through the first two of the courses that the Evangelistic Academy offer and I am about half way through the third course and although finding it hard work, I am enjoying it greatly.



I have been married to Brenda for forty years and we have one daughter who lives and works away from home. We live in deepest, dark Somerset, in what was the centre of the old Somerset Coalfields, Radstock, which is about ten miles from the city of Bath. We have lived in our present home since 1985 and our ministry is helping some of the many small village Chapels who find it so hard to get preachers. Sadly too many preachers today refuse to preach to small congregations. There are occasions when we preach in Bath and this year have added a Chapel on the outskirts of Bristol to our list. The friendship and Christian fellowship we find in these small places is very uplifting. Although it does mean that at times we get a phone call to fill in at short notice, when the booked preacher is taken ill. To this we have added writing to prisoners in the U.K. who have returned to the Christian faith after falling into the world's ways. To these we send a letter, two second class stamps, a Christian booklet and 3 or 4 tracts. They find real Christian material hard to come by and often the Sunday services they get give them no spiritual food as the minister does not want to upset anyone. If we are able to help anyone or Chapel, with a Sunday service, we would be more than glad to do so.

Colin Ryan

Moral confusion – a Sign of the Last Days

Speaking for the motion to bring in homosexual marriage, David Cameron declared his support for this measure, because he is 'a passionate supporter of marriage' and does not want to see this institution denied to homosexuals. But marriage by definition is a relationship between a man and woman. Jesus said: "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

Matthew 19.4-6. Therefore no matter what laws the government brings in, from the biblical view, it will always be denied to homosexuals.

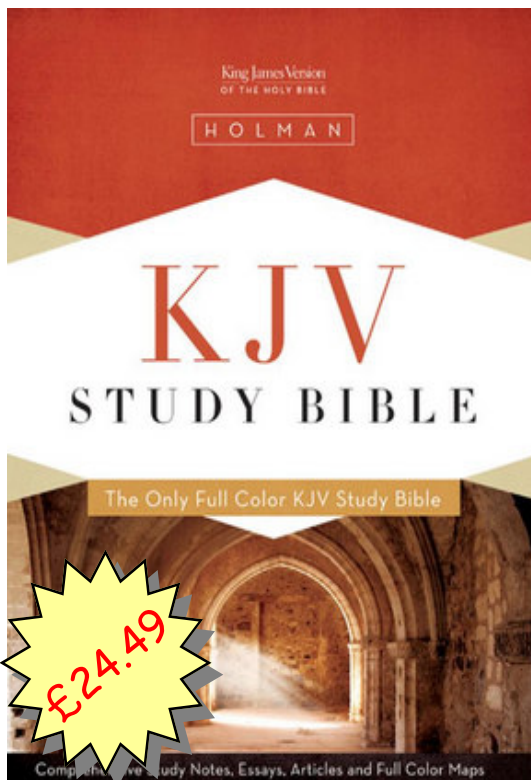
The government has said it will protect churches that do not wish to carry out homosexual marriages and will make it illegal for homosexual marriages to be conducted in the Church of England. However the Coalition for Marriage said this could be challenged in the European Court of Human Rights. It has also been pointed out that the current law requires schools to teach children about the importance of marriage. If marriage is given a new definition it will be endorsed in schools. According to expert legal advice any teacher who

fails to endorse same sex marriage in the classroom could be dismissed. Already supporters of homosexual marriage are recommending books for use in schools, which undermine traditional marriage and call on schools to get children to act out homosexual weddings.

Jesus said that one of the signs of His return is an increase in wickedness: 'because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.' Matthew 24.12. He also said it would be 'as in the days of Noah' and 'the days of Lot' before His return. In the days of Noah we read how the earth was filled with violence, and every imagination of the

heart of man was only evil continually (Genesis 6). We read of Lot living in Sodom, where sexual depravity and homosexuality ruled the conduct of people. Lot was 'who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds).' (2 Peter 2.7-8). This is happening all over the world.

The full article can be found at www.lightforthelastdays.co.uk



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